

Report title	Consultation on proposals for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Governance	
Originating service	Licensing Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Jo Till	Section Leader (Licensing)
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Recommendation(s) for action:

The Licensing Committee is recommended to:

Consider the consultation on proposed changes and to provide comments to include in a response.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Licencing Committee of a consultation to consider a proposal for changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 24 October the Government launched a review of gaming machines and social responsibility measures which began with a call for evidence. The call for evidence sought evidence based proposals on: Maximum stakes and prizes for all categories of gaming machines permitted under the Gambling Act 2005; allocations of gaming machines permitted in all licensed premises under the Gambling Act 2005; social responsibility measures for the industry as a whole to minimise the risk of gambling-related harm, including not limited to gaming machines. Wolverhampton Council submitted a response to the review. A copy is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 As outlined in the call for evidence review, gaming machines are divided into categories depending on the maximum stake and prize available, the nature of the prize, as well as the premises where they can be located. This is detailed within Appendix 2 (Appendix A of the document). The call for evidence generated a substantive proportion of submissions regarding B2 Machines, more commonly referred to as Fixed-Odd Betting Terminals (FOBT's), which are permitted in Casinos and bookmakers. Part of the consultation addresses these machines independently.
- 2.3 There was widespread support for a reduction in stake limits for B2 Machines to £2, including support from Local Government Association (LGA), Local Authorities, various campaign and charity groups and a petition from a campaign group with over 100,000 signatures.
- 2.4 The main concerns referenced in the responses is the disparity between the maximum stakes on B2 Machines of £100 and the maximum stake on other gaming machines in accessible locations of only £2. Respondents have argued that the £100 maximum stake was linked to gambling-related harm, wider harm to the communities and in some instances anti-social behaviour.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The evidence provided to the government provides justification that action on B2 machines is required, however there is limited evidence on the exact level the revised maximum stake should be. Four options have been identified within the consultation: Maximum stake reduced to £50 on all B2 content; maximum stake reduced to £30 on all B2 content; maximum stake reduced to £20 on B2 non-slots and £2 on B2 slots; maximum stake reduced to £2 on all B2 content.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 A 12-week consultation on the proposals commenced on 31 October 2017 and will run until 23 January 2018. The questions for the consultation are:

- Q1. Do you agree that the maximum stake of £100 on B2 machines (FOBTs) should be reduced? If yes, what alternative maximum stake for B2 machines (FOBTs) do you support?
- Q2. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B1?
- Q3. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3?
- Q4. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B3A?
- Q5. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category B4?
- Q6. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category C?
- Q7. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on category D?
- Q8. Do you agree with the government's proposals to increase the stake and prize for prize gaming, in line with industry proposals?
- Q9. Do you agree with the government's proposals to maintain the status quo on allocations for casinos, arcades and pubs?
- Q10. Do you agree with the government's proposals to bar contactless payments as a direct form of payment to gaming machines?
- Q11. Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures on gaming machines?
- Q12. Do you support this package of measures to improve player protection measures for the online sector?
- Q13. Do you support this package of measures to address concerns about gambling advertising?
- Q14. Do you agree the Government should consider alternative options including a mandatory levy if industry does not provide adequate funding for RET?
- Q15. Do you agree with our assessment of the current powers available to local authorities?
- Q16. Are there any other relevant issues, supported by evidence, that you would like to raise as part of this consultation but that has not been covered by questions 1-15?

4.2 Responses will be collated and returned on behalf of City of Wolverhampton Council, and should be provided to Jo Till by 9 January 2018.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.
[GE/16112017/H]

6.0 Legal implications

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report
[RB/16112017/Y].

7.0 Equalities implications

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 Environmental implications

8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

9.0 Human resources implications

9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from this report.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

11.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.